

GREEN VIEW

LANCASTER DISTRICT

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM NORTH LANCASHIRE GREEN PARTY

GREEN COUNCIL LEADER FOR THE CITY

Councillor Caroline Jackson was elected as Lancaster City's first Green leader in May, and will lead a shared administration with five of the seven political groups on the City Council.

Cllr Jackson said:

"We work best when we work together for the benefit of our residents. That means political inclusion rather than political competition in running the Council. I'm delighted that councillors from the Eco-Socialist Group, the Morecambe Bay Independents, the Liberal Democrats and Labour, will now be working together with the Greens.

"The new Cabinet has councillors with the right skills and abilities to do their best for this wonderful District, reflecting different views, and with strong representation for Morecambe. I am honoured to be given this opportunity to lead a shared administration working on clear priorities: action on the climate emergency, ensuring that our residents have safe, warm homes, and that we work as a sustainable, compassionate and responsible Council."



Cllr Caroline Jackson, new Council Leader

Caroline is a former teacher and was head of Hornby High School. As well as her new role as leader of the Council, Caroline is also a trustee of the Morecambe Bay Foodbank; director of MORE Renewables; an occasional Street Pastor in town, helping young people get home safely; a governor at Castle Hill Primary School and she helps run a food club on the Ridge Estate within her ward.



Photograph: Robert Wade

HELP KEEP THE DISTRICT TIDY

The City Council will supply bags and litter pickers to residents who are helping keep their area litter free. If you can help do a short regular litter pick locally please get in touch with your Green councillor or ward contact. Cllr Abi Mills said: "Many local people are already making a huge difference to the appearance of their local area. If you would like us to help organise a community litter pick or weed clearing, please contact us."



ELECTRIC CAR CLUB NOW AVAILABLE IN OUR DISTRICT!

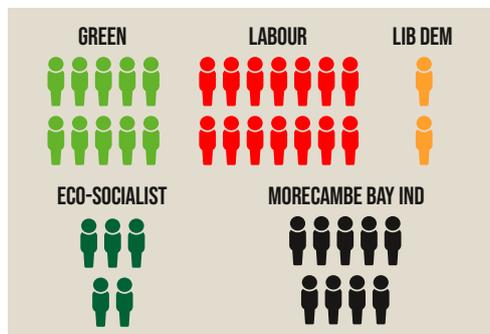
Lancaster City Council has teamed up with national car share scheme, Co-Wheels, to create an all-electric car share club. Fully electric vehicles are now available for hire in Lancaster and Morecambe town centres from as little as £5.50 an hour. Insurance and refuelling are included in the cost, and the cars have charge cards and charging guides to help drivers. For more information and to sign up to the £1 membership and £40 credit offer, visit: www.co-wheels.org.uk/lancaster

JOIN THE GREEN WAVE!

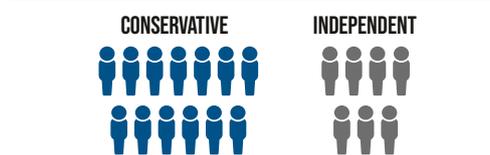
Recognition of the Greens' hard work in their communities and their popular policies for tackling the climate crisis has led to the Green Party gaining new council seats all across the country and membership has been steadily rising.

Cllr Joanna Young said: "Joining the Green Party costs between £5 and £40 per year depending on your income and type of membership. You can also help the local Greens as a supporter without paying a joining fee. Please contact enquiries@northlancs.greenparty.org.uk if you want to get involved in any way."

THE MAKE-UP OF THE NEW SHARED ADMINISTRATION



OTHER GROUPS ON THE COUNCIL



HOW CHANGES ON THE CITY COUNCIL LED TO ITS FIRST GREEN LEADER

Following the City Council elections in 2019, Labour, the Greens and the Lib Dems formed an alliance administration with a Labour leader for a two-year term. Since then, two councillors left Labour to become independents, and in late 2020 five more Labour councillors left to form the Eco-Socialist group, leaving Labour with just 14 out of 60 seats on the Council. The MBIs also split in 2020, with five councillors leaving to form the Independent Group with the two ex-Labour councillors.

The two-year leadership term ended in May 2021 with a vote at the annual Business Council meeting. This resulted in Green councillor Caroline Jackson being elected as leader, with a clear majority of councillors supporting her.

As usual, committee chairs were also elected, as per the tradition of best experience for the role, with five of the seven political groups securing chairs.

Green Cllr Dave Brookes said:

“Greens chose to put up a candidate for leader after negotiations with Labour failed, and as a result of frustration with the style of leadership. On a council with seven political groups, we don’t all have to agree with each other, but we do need to be able to listen and work with each other respectfully to make decisions for the good of the district, and that is why Caroline was elected leader.”

THE CITY COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

GREENER, FAIRER AND INVOLVING OUR COMMUNITIES

The City Council has a range of ambitious projects in the pipeline for Lancaster and Morecambe district. These could **create new jobs, provide affordable housing, offer skills training, and transform our travel systems** whilst **tackling the climate emergency**. Green leader Caroline Jackson said: *“These big projects in our district could create lasting improvements and prosperity for local people and our environment. But all of them need careful planning, financial prudence and scrutiny to ensure that investment brings benefits to our local communities, and contributes to ensuring our zero carbon future. If we get this right, we could make Lancaster District the Green Capital of the North.”*

Support Eden North to gain Government funding and put Morecambe back on the map.

Plan for net zero carbon by 2030: Take the lead in climate emergency action, reducing carbon emissions together with all our partners and organisations in the district.

Revive the Canal Quarter with local businesses, heritage buildings, culture, green spaces and affordable and social housing at its heart.

Energy efficient homes: Upgrade and expand the council’s housing stock with fit for future housing, including a major renewal project at Mainway, Skerton.

Former Frontierland site: Ensure there is community involvement in the future plans for the former amusement park site.

Biodiversity: Take effective action to tackle the decline in natural habitats, including planting more trees and changing land management practices.

Cabinet member Councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox said:

“We must ensure that our communities are involved in shaping and supporting plans for this district at the earliest opportunity. Fairness, sustainability and good financial management should underpin our decisions.”

YOUR GREEN COUNCILLOR TEAM

The Green Party is represented by 10 councillors on Lancaster City Council, two councillors on Lancashire County Council, and active campaigners across the district. Feel free to contact any of us:



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YOUR LOCAL GREEN PARTY: WORK

DECISION ON NEW TOWN OF OVER 9,000 HOMES IN SOUTH LANCASTER TO BE MADE WITHIN WEEKS

City and County councils required to reach agreement on massive infrastructure project by the end of August

Green Council Leader Cllr Caroline Jackson said:

"I think residents across the district will be surprised at the expanded scale of housing development now proposed in south Lancaster. As councillors, we have only recently been made aware of some of the details. There are many questions which don't yet have answers. I have put this on the agenda of the June and July meetings of the City Council to be sure that everyone now has the chance to understand the financial and other implications, and how this might affect our council priorities, particularly those for climate emergency action."

Background to the proposals:

- The City Council's Local Plan – adopted last year – allocated land for 3,500 homes on the fields between Scotforth and Galgate, to create 'Bairrigg Garden Village'.
- The County Council had decided that a reconfigured motorway junction and access road was required for all the traffic this new housing would generate. It applied for government funding for this, plus a 2.5km spine road, an underpass of the railway line, and a bridge over the canal.
- This March, the Government provisionally offered funding of £140m towards the total estimated cost of £261m for all the infrastructure, via its Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- **The Housing Infrastructure Fund grant is now based on delivering a much expanded number of homes in south Lancaster – at least 9,185 homes.**
- **The City Council is expected to contribute £4.6m and to collect a 'roof tax' from developers on every new home. Extra funding needs to be secured to cover the total infrastructure costs, including education and health services, and to fill the funding gap of £120m.** These developer contributions are required to part fund the new M6 junction and highway, new schools and GP provision, city centre highway changes, a new cycle 'superhighway' and to enable a 'bus rapid transit' scheme.

Green councillors have consistently challenged the numbers of homes that are predicted to be needed in the district and have campaigned against this scale of development in south Lancaster.



Part of the site of the proposed 9,000 home development

Cllr Gina Dowding, who recently became Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning said:

"There is a risk that instead of providing much needed affordable housing for local people, the direct link to the motorway will turn this into a desirable commuter town for people working outside the area. It is also difficult to see how a development of this scale is compatible with the climate emergency."

If you have concerns, please contact any of your City or County councillors and tell them your views. The Greens have organised an online meeting on **Wednesday 14th July at 7.30pm** – register here: <https://bit.ly/2ShTwlp>



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Faster broadband on the way

The City Council has been working with partners to enable delivery of 'gigabit' broadband connectivity. An enhanced network of fibre-optic cables is in advanced design. Green cabinet member, Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said: "This will lead to much faster and more reliable broadband across more of the district. We particularly want to get it to our digital and creative businesses as soon as possible."

"Many of the district's more rural areas already boast gigabit broadband, installed by BARN (Broadband for a Rural Network)."

Keep connected: new website for residents

The City Council is launching a new website – Keep Connected – where residents and community groups can find out what is happening, get involved in community projects, respond to and see the results of consultations, and connect with other people. The website will host information about district-wide projects including the South Lancaster housing development: keepconnected.lancaster.gov.uk

New hospitals update

Our local NHS trusts are developing options for our local hospitals, following funding made available from Government. Cllr Gina Dowding said: "We must keep our hospital services local." Healthwatch Together is working to encourage people to get involved. If you have views about how money should be invested in our hospitals, please visit the following website:

healthwatchlancashire.co.uk/lancashire-and-south-cumbria-new-hospitals-programme/

Lancaster Health Festival...

...returns on **29th July – 1st August 2021**, celebrating and rediscovering the art of living via a series of online events and physically distanced activities. <https://bit.ly/3iVJAJa>

UP TO £10,000 FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Residents can apply for energy-saving home improvements from Lancaster City Council's new scheme. Green Rose CIC, a local not-for-profit organisation which offers free energy advice, is working with the council to promote it.

The council scheme offers homeowners fully-funded measures worth up to £10,000 including insulation, solar panels and low-carbon heating. Applicants must live in an energy inefficient home and have an annual household income of less than £30,000. Private landlords may be able to improve rented properties but must contribute towards the cost. The deadline for applications is the end of July.

James Sommerville, a Green Rose



Director who is based in Bare, said:

"This is one of the best opportunities we have ever seen for energy-saving improvements. Because it's run by the council it's 100% trustworthy, but it won't be around for long!"

For more information email info@greenrose.org.uk or call free on **0800 702 2528**.

GREEN SUCCESSES IN MAY ELECTIONS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

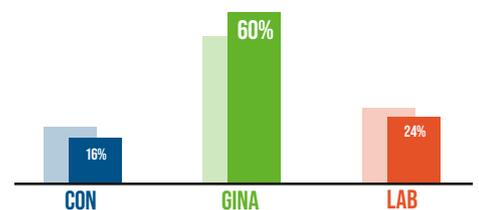
Lancaster's Green County Cllr Gina Dowding was elected with an increased majority in the recent County Council election. Green candidates Jamie Melly and Hamish Mills both came a strong second, significantly increasing the Green vote compared to the previous County election.

Gina said: "On behalf of all the Green candidates I'd like to say a huge thank you for voters' support. I am also delighted that Burnley elected a Green councillor, Andy Fewings, for the first time to County so we will now be a Green group of two!"

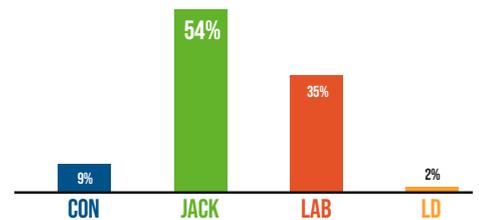
Green Cllr Jack Lenox was elected in the by-election in May to represent Bulk Ward, keeping the Green Group on the City at 10 councillors. Jack said:

"I was overwhelmed by the support I received in Bulk ward and I look forward to working for all of our residents."

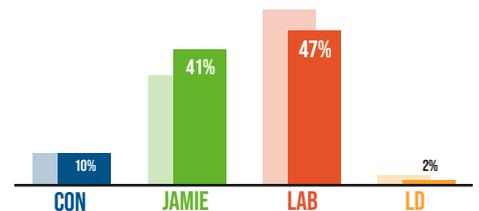
Gina Dowding – Lancaster Central (2017 results in halftone behind)



Jack Lenox – Bulk Ward By-Election



Jamie Melly – Lancaster East (2017 results in halftone behind)



JOIN THE GREEN PARTY TODAY! VISIT:

JOIN.GREENPARTY.ORG.UK